

ABSTRACT

This invention concerns a decoder for processing Pay-TV data. This decoder is associated to a security module by means of identification data and includes means for deactivating the processing of the Pay-TV data. Furthermore, it includes a counter that acts on the deactivation means according to the content of this counter. The invention also concerns a Pay-TV data management system including at least two decoders like those defined above, this system being characterized in that at least one of the security modules is declared master and includes means for reinitializing said decoder counters. The invention furthermore concerns a management process for at least two decoders for processing Pay-TV data, said decoders being associated to a subscriber and including means for deactivating the processing of Pay-TV data and a counter that acts on said deactivation means. Each subscriber also disposes of at least two security modules that can be locally connected to a decoder. The process includes the steps of determination of at least one master security module among the security modules belonging to a subscriber; of storage in each of the subscriber's decoders of an identification element of the master security module; of deactivation by the data processing decoder counter according to at least one predefined criterion and the reinitialization of the counter by introducing the master security module into the deactivated decoder.